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The EXAMINER.

From Friday January 8, to Monday January 11, 1713.

——Magnas territat Urbes. Virgil.

THERE are two very remarkable Obſervations to be made upon thoſe fine Deſcriptions and elegant Accounts of *Fame*, which are to be met with among the *Antients*; who often touch this Subject, both in *Proſe* nd *Verſe*, with great Livelineſs and Judgment; and hereby convince the Moderns, that this buſy reſtleſs eing had a deep Hand in all the publick Meaſures du- ng the moſt flouriſhing State of the *Roman Empire* nd the *Grecian Commonwealths*. One is, that they ſome- mes eſteem'd her as a *Goddeſs*, equipped her with a emple, Prieſts, Altars, *Sacrifice*, and all other Marks Divine Honour, and made her a fit Object for Wor- ip. The Other is, that they as often repreſented her the Trim and Garb of a *Fury*, or in the Figure and ppearance of ſome Terrible *Monſter*, with a vaſt umber of Eyes and Feet, above a Thouſand Tongues, d a prodigious Bulk ever rolling up and down, and owing to an immenſe Size in a very little Time. The oddeſs *Fame* was ſuppos'd to have her Altars perpe- ally crowded by Great Men, *Heroes* and *Sages*; ſuch were ordain'd to partake of the very ſame Divinity another Life: But the Fury *Fame* was a common eſt, and the Terror of Mankind; a Diſturber of the ublick Repoſe and Safety, a Promoter of Civil Diſcord d Diſorder, that brought a *Pannick* upon Cities and ations, and overturn'd States and Empires. Take eſe Things in the way of *Emblem* and *Mythology*, and eir Meaning is plainly this; that *Fame*, the beſt of ght and airy Beings, becomes the worſt by Corrup- on; not that there can be ſo wide an Inconſiſtency be- een the greateſt Perfection and the greateſt Evil, ually ſubſiſting in One and the ſame Thing together; t Mankind is anſwerable for it, and our Corruptions uſt ſolve this Difficulty; becauſe out of that very ſame outh proceed evil Reports and good Reports, Bleſ- gs and Curſes, Praiſes and Slanders, the juſt Returns Thanks and Applauſe to good and great Men, and abominable Multitude of Lyes, Calumnies, Re- oaches, Murmurs, Clamours, falſe Reports, and all her Wounds and Maladies, which that *Sword between Lips* ſo freely diſperſes abroad in the World.

Wicked and Deſigning Men have in all Ages apply'd emſelves with great Vigour to this Method of Di- rbing and Embroiling a State; whoſe Confuſion or ains are either an Entertainment to them or an Ad- ntage; and they are at no very great Pains or Expence bring about a Contrivance of this Sort, becauſe it y coſts them a little Breath, and they are preſently e of a prodigious Number of Abettors. The ſeveral ys of raiſing and ſpreading *Rumours* and *falſe Re- rts* are very well known; every One is a Maſter of m: Cuſtom and Experience have made it an eaſy rtainment: It is become a part of general Commerce d common Converſation; and the Stratagem is ſtill in ce, notwithſtanding it is ſo very Stale and Thread- e. *Talebearers* and *Retailers of Falſe-News* will, like *untebanks*, find Credit and Succeſs, in ſpite of their g Notorious, ſo long as there is a vaſt Majority of k credulous People, capable of Conſpiring againſt mſelves, and ready to give others the Profits, ſo they enjoy the Pleaſure, of being Cheated. The Poor, ell as Rich, the Meaneſt of Mankind as well as the ateſt, are in this Caſe dangerous and formidable to Publick; and have it in their Power to carry on all mighty deal of Miſchief, that a *Rumour* is able to bring about. Then as the *Rumour* ſpreads, the Party and Forces, that ſupport it, naturally encreaſe and grow ſtronger. For tho' it may require ſome Judgment and Cunning to invent a well-contrived Lye, ſuch as may paſs glibly, and is fit to be promoted into a *Publick Report*, yet every one may aſſiſt in Propagating it, who has the common Organs of *Hearing* and *Speech* about him: And it is monſtrous to conſider, from how *minute an Origin*, from *what a Speck of Entity*, as the *Diſpenſary* calls it, a *Common Rumour* ſhall grow to a *Political Lye* of the firſt Magnitude. The *Natural World* never produc'd a Monſter of ſo quick a Growth, and with ſuch uncommon Faculties of Vegetation. *Naturaliſts* obſerve, that the Air, which we Breathe, which is imperceptible to our naked Eye, and pervious even to the lighteſt and moſt minute Things, is the very ſame Body, which, when agitated and ruffled to a Storm, carries all before it, and lays a Country waſte in a Moment. Thus the very ſame *Breath*, which blows the Fire of Civil Diſcord, ſpreads a *Pannick* over the Minds of the People, and Arms a Nation againſt it ſelf, that does more Execution than the moſt dreadful Tempeſt, ſurpaſſes the Roar of the Thunder, ſtrikes ſurer than its Bolts, and is ſo terrible that an Earthquake is not louder, nor more fatal in its Conſequences, was perhaps but Yeſterday a *common Rumour*, *Vox & præterea Nihil*, an *idle Diſcourſe*, the Amuſement of the Vulgar, a *flying Report*, a Bird of the Air juſt about to take Wing; it may be the Day before, it was only *Table-Talk*, or came in ſome Letter among *Hondee's* and *Epiſtolary Compliments*, and perhaps the Day before that, it was engendred at ſome *Levee* in a Nod or a Shrug, deliver'd in a dark Hint or Conjecture, or brought forth in a *Whiſper*, that for want of Care and Attention, was almoſt in danger of being *Still-born*.

The *Roman* Empire was often put into Diſorder, and ſometimes reduced to the very brink of Ruin, by the meer force of *Rumours* and *popular Deluſions*; when no other Power upon Earth was able to ſhock thoſe deep and ſolid Foundations of Glory and Grandeur, which that State had ſecur'd and eſtabliſh'd, upon the Ruins of all its Neighbours. The *Greek Hiſtories* afford us many moving Accounts of publick Feuds and Commotions occaſion'd by ſome prevailing Miſtake or *falſe Report*, ſpread among the People, which often terminated in a very Tragical Iſſue, and brought either unſpeakable Damage or entire Ruin upon the *Commonwealth*. This Evil, generally ſpeaking, does moſt Miſchief among the Moderns, when the Government is *Democratical*, or inclining to that Form, or where it is ſtrictly *Monarchical*, and under the Dominion of an *Abſolute* uncontroulable Sovereign: For in both theſe Caſes, where the State is all Head or all Belly, an unlucky Blow, either with the Tongue or the Sword, aim'd at the right Place, does the Work at once; whilſt nothing under a *Complication of Treaſons* can ruin a Government that has large Dependencies, and whenever one Part is in danger, can be ſupported by another. The moſt effectual Remedies therefore for this Malady are to be found in *mix'd States*, where Freedom and Power are ſet out, and made conſiſtent, by wholeſome Laws and Statutes; and yet even here, it will break out, and produce fatal Conſequences, unleſs thoſe Laws are duly enforced and executed. For this Miſchief was never known to get ſuch a Head, and ſpread the Infection ſo very far, as when Men conſider'd it rather as a Mode or Cuſtom, than a

Crime

Crime condemn'd by our Laws; or when the Publick Magiſtrate forbore all Enquiries of this Nature, out of a tender Regard for a miſtaken *Liberty*; or becauſe many, who were concern'd in ſpreading *Reports*, knew how to diſguiſe them ſo, as that they ſhould not fall under the Lath of the Law and yet do all the intended Miſchief; or out of a weak Notion, that ſince no Words were allow'd to be *Treaſon*, therefore every thing that was ſaid ceaſed to be Criminal.

That there is a *Party* among us, who have indulged themſelves in the open Practice of this Iniquity in all its wildeſt Exceſſes, and whoſe Corruptions are run off to the loweſt Dregs, is too notorious to be made a Queſtion. They have Outly'd that *Popery*, which they ſay is Coming in; and, in Imitation of the *Jeſuites*, have made a *Merit* of their Sin, under Pretence of doing Service to the Cauſe. Their Numbers of Tale-bearers are ſo great, that they are oblig'd to turn Receivers too, and to Invent and Propagate, to Lye and Believe by Turns, in order to keep up the Trade among themſelves, and gain Credit in the World, after having juſtly deſerv'd to forfeit it in a thouſand Inſtances, with all the rational and ſenſible Part of Mankind. But of all the falſe Reports and idle Rumours, that ever iſſued from their Mint of Scandal and Untruth, nothing comes up to that horrid Falſhood, which was lately, with ſo much Induſtry, ſpread about, and by this time carried all over *Europe*. This ſhould ſeem to be a home Puſh, and their laſt great Conſummate *Lye*; which, on that account, might eaſily be forgiven them, if for the future they would leave off that abominable Habit. I hear there are ſeveral under Proſecution for being active and vigorous in diſperſing this *Rumour*: I hope ſome of them will be made memorable Examples for a Terror to all future Offenders. The *Whigs* have indeed found an effectual way to Mortify the honeſt Majority of their Fellow-Subjects; To ſpread a *Panick* over the Nation; To Terrify thoſe whom they cannot Seduce, and Gratify their own Malice, by giving us one or two gloomy diſconſolate Moments, amidſt the general Happineſs. Even the News of a Defeat or an entire Victory, gain'd by the *Faction*, and the total Reduction of us and our Poſterity to Slavery under them, could not have more ſenſibly affected us. Conſidering how Dear and Ineſtimable a Bleſſing that Sacred Life is to us and to all *Europe*, how neceſſary towards confirming and ſecuring our Repoſe and Safety, and how much depends upon the preſent *Criſis*, now that Peace is about to be made in *Germany* and the *North*, *Religion* and *Trade* to be ſettled upon immoveable Foundations, the Damages ſuſtain'd by *Faction* to be repair'd, a *Parliament* to meet that muſt perfect our Happineſs, and the inteſtine Enemy to be ſo far reduc'd, as never to hurt us more, there is no doubt but every Body by this time, ſees to the Ends and Deſign of Spiriting-up this accurſed Rumor, and ſpreading it abroad at a very great Expence. But ſince even this Engine has fail'd of doing the Work: Since we do not yet hear of a Rebellion, or ſo much as a ſmall *Riſing*, or any thing beyond the *Mutiny* among the *Marines*, let *Faction*, now ſhe has done her beſt, give over for Shame, and learn the Modeſty to Deſpair. A *Second Part* of the Old Rumour about the *Iriſh Invaſion* had been a diverting Trick of State, in compariſon of this, and might have made a tolerable Jeſt, when it was detected. If the *Whigs* hereby intended to try the Pulſes of the Nation, with reſpect to the *Succeſſion*, let them now boaſt of the Experiment. The Friends of the *Miniſtry* deſire to abide the ſtricteſt Tryals, that honeſt Men can put them to. But a bare Attempt of this kind carries a Suppoſition along with it, that Reflects in the ſevereſt manner upon the *Illuſtrious Houſe of Hanover*. The Teſt they would fix upon others, bears hardeſt upon themſelves; and when all Accounts are brought in, I queſtion whether even they will be able to ſtand it. Tho' I am not overfond of bad Company, I ſhould be glad to ſpend an Hour or Two with thoſe Agents of the *Faction*, the Fellow-Travellers of this *Lye*, who have thought fit to go along with it into *Holland* and *Brabant*. I believe ſome Diſcoveries might be made very conducive to the future Repoſe of *that Life*, which theſe *Ruffians by Word of Mouth* have thought fit to ſhorten. Here I might call for the *Engliſhman*'s Lungs; but I think it enough to ſay, that our Law calls it *Treaſon* only to *Imagine* the Death of the *Queen*, and then ſurely to *ſpeak it*, is more. In King *Charles* the Firſt's Time, a *Phtlomath* was very near being Hang'd, for pretending to foretell ſomething like it. I know not what Defence he made, but our preſent Wizards have, I am afraid, conſulted another ſort of *Devils*, in their own Likeneſs, upon this occaſion.

The general Grief and Horror, that, during the Hearing of this Report, reign'd in every Heart, and was plainly legible in the Faces of Men of all Ranks, and Orders, and even of Children, as if more nearly touch'd with the Calamities of Poſterity than ſome of their Fathers, was enough to Infect even thoſe, who betray'd an infamous Indifference and Demureneſs in their Looks, and thoſe *Few*, very *Few*, I hope, who felt a ſecret ſtuff of Content, not eaſily to be contain'd; and which I doubt not will render them as remarkable, as if they had been that Moment diſtinguiſh'd by ſome monſtrous Excreſcence or Deformity. The vaſt majority of *Loyal Mourners* muſt, in ſpite of their wicked Thoughts, force an *Occaſional Melancholly* from them; and 'twas enough to be Unconcern'd, when they ſaw the univerſal Joy and Tranſport, and heard the mutual Congratulations, upon the firſt News of *Her Majeſty*'s being in good Health. This Conſideration will, I hope, quaſh all future Attempts of this kind. We have many Traitors among us, who do not want Opportunities of ſhewing their Zeal to *Faction* in ſo eminent a manner: *Curſe not the King in thy Heart*, was a Rule heretofore; but *Curſing a Queen with the Lips* has been practis'd of late; and if this Crime were treated Tenderly, I expect a World of ſevere Uſage, for repreſenting the *Report of Her Death*, as more than a venial Sin.

After ſaying thus much to the Authors of this *Rumour*, I ſhould ſay a little to thoſe, who received or credited it. And they would do well to obſerve the Advice of a great Caſuiſt, on another Occaſion, and that is; to believe every *Whig-Report* to be a *Lye*, till they find by Experience that it is True. I ſhall only add, that I never expect to hear this Rumour again, for the ſake even of our worſt Enemies: For how well ſoever we may have deſerv'd of Providence, it is impoſſible that even the *Whigs* can be ſo diſpos'd of hereafter, as to have any Governor, who will uſe them with more Gentleneſs and Indulgence than *Her Preſent Majeſty*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt publiſh'd,

THE Firſt Ode of the Seventh Book of Horace Paraphras'd, and Addreſs'd to Richard St--le, Eſq; Printed for A. Dodd, at the Peacock without Temple Bar. Price 3 d. Where may be had the Third Edition of Part of the Seventh Epiſtle of the Firſt Book of Horace, Imitated: And Addreſs'd to a Noble Peer. Price 3 d.

†††† This Day is Publiſhed, An Introduction to the Life and Writings of G——t Lord Biſhop of S——m. In a Letter to his Lordſhip, occaſioned by his Introduction to the Third Volume of the Hiſtory of the Reformation. Containing, 1. A Defence of the Clergy of the Church of England. 2. A Diſcovery of what Perſons are moſt likely to turn Roman Catholicks. 3. Mr. Whiſton's Character cleared from the unjuſt Aſperſions caſt upon him. By the Author of the Two former Letters. Printed for E. Curll, at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleetſtreet, Price 1 s. Where may be had all Mr. Sewell's Tracts, viz. His Two former Letters to the Bp. of Salisbury; Remarks upon my Lord N—— m's State of the Nation; The Life of Mr. John Phillips; The Patriot, a Poem; Obſervations upon Mr. Addiſon's Cato, Price 6 d. each. Miſcellanies in Verſe and Proſe, Price 4 s.

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